

Message Text

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13-12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

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INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JA IMMEDIATE
5TH AF YOKOTA JA IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO MIG-25 INCIDENT

SUMMARY: JAPANESE MEDIA CONTINUES TO HEADLINE MIG-25 INCIDENT
WITH SOVIETS COMING IN FOR CRITICISM FOR HEAVYHANDEDNESS, WHILE
GOJ OFFICIALS ARE WARY OF PREDICTING HOW THE MATTER WILL BE
SETTLED. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE GOJ OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO REACT WITH DELICACY TO COMPLEX
OF DIPLOMATIC PROBLEMS CREATED BY MIG-25 INCIDENT TOUGHER
POSTURE TOWARDS SOVIETS NOTED BY MEDIA. HIGH FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE HEADLINED IN SEPTEMBER 9 PAPERS CRITI-
CIZING THE USSR FOR NOT HAVING EXPRESSED ITS REGRET AT HAVING
VIOLATED JAPAN'S TERRITORY AND FOR "LACK OF PROTOCOL" IN MAKING
DEMANDS WITHOUT EXPRESSING ANY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE INCIDENT. A HIGH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL COMPARED THIS TO
"BREAKING INTO THE YARD OF A NEIGHBOR AND SAYING NO WORD OF REGRET"
AND SAID IT WAS NOT BEFITTING A "GENTLEMANLY COUNTRY".
FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA TOLD THE PRESS ON THE MORNING OF
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SEPTEMBER 9 THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PRIME MINISTER MIKI

TO HANDLE THE AFFAIR "VERY CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO LEAVE ANY DISPUTES IN THE FUTURE".

2. MOST PAPERS SEE THE DEFECTOR LEAVING FOR THE US ON SEPTEMBER 9, AND ARE TURNING THEIR ATTENTION TO THE DISPOSITION OF THE MIG-25. ONE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THIS INCIDENT IS UNPRECEDENTED FOR JAPAN, BUT EUROPEAN PRECEDENTS ESTABLISH A KIND OF "INTERNATIONAL MARKET PRICE" FOR HANDLING THE PLANE WHICH INVOLVES A "QUITE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION WITHIN THE SCOPE NECESSARY FOR THE PURSUIT AND CLARIFICATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT OF TERRITORIAL VIOLATION." THE ASAHI SUMMARIZES THAT "THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THINKS JAPAN CAN DETAIN THE PLANE AS MATERIAL EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL OFFENSE EVEN AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF BELENKO AND THERE IS NO NEED TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE. THE GOJ INTENDS TO RETURN THE PLANE EVENTUALLY, BUT A FINAL DECISION ON ITS HANDLING SHOULD BE MADE ONLY AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS REACH AN AGREEMENT." ALSO ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE PLANE'S "RIGHT OF INVIOABILITY" AS CALIMED BY THE SOVIET SIDE.

3. THE JDA HAS BEGUN INTERGOVERNMENTAL TALKS TO CONDUCT A SEPARATE INSPECTION OF THE PLANE. UP TO NOW THE JDA IS SAID TO BE COOPERATING IN THE POLICE AND PROCURATOR'S INVESTIGATION WITH ITS OWN PERSONNEL, JDA DIRGEN SAKATA REPORTEDLY TOLD THE LDP SECURITY RESEARCH COUNCIL THAT JDA INVESTIGATION OF THE PLANE "IS A MATTER OF COURSE". FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES SAY THE INVESTIGATION WILL PROBABLY NOT TAKE AS LONG AS TWO TO THREE MONTHS. THERE IS A LINE OF COMMON SENSE". A JDA SOURCE

OFFICIAL OPINED THAT ABOUT ONE MONTH WILL BE REQUIRED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF COMMON SENSE, ACCORDING TO THE YOMIURI.

4. SOVIET REACTION IS BEING WATCHED CAREFULLY. FONOFF OFFICIALS REVEALED THAT MOSCOW AMBASSADOR SHIGEMITSU WAS PRESENTED THE SAME DEMANDS MADE EARLIER IN TOKYO. AMBASSADOR POLANSKY IS SCHEDULED TO MEET VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARITA THIS AFTERNOON (SEPTEMBER 9) IN WHAT THE PRESS EXPECTS WILL BE PRESENTATION OF THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET GOVERNMENT DEMARCHE TO DATE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS BECOME INVOLVED.

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5. THERE IS LITTLE COMMENTARY ON IMPLICATIONS FOR US-JAPAN RELATIONS. ONE FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO DIRECTLY SEEK THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MIG-25, AND THAT THE US HAS ATTACHED NO CONDITION TO BELENKO'S ASYLUM OTHER THAN CONFIRMATION OF HIS INTENTIONS. SHOESMITH

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